Health Consultation — Gwinnett County

Paper Mill Road Undeveloped Tract
December 2, 2008

Introduction
In April 2008, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GEPD) contacted the Georgia Division of Public Health (GDPH) regarding a resident's concerns about buried trash on her property and in land adjacent to her property. During a site visit, both GEPD and GDPH staff observed debris on the undeveloped parcel to the south and east, and in a resident's yard adjacent to the north end of the site. On-site debris includes mostly household waste. Debris on the resident's property includes roofing tiles and other materials that may be from another source not associated with the site. The site is not fenced and is easily accessible to the public.

Site Description and History
The closest residences are within 300 feet of the site. Two municipal water supply wells and three private water wells are located approximately one mile from the site. Additionally, approximately 18 unused water wells are located within two miles of the site. All residents living within one-half mile of the site use municipal water.

In November 2006, soil and groundwater samples collected on the undeveloped parcel showed several contaminants. In March 2007, the parcel was listed on the GEPD Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI) for lead above regulatory levels for soil and groundwater. HSI is a list of sites in Georgia where there has been known or suspected releases of a regulated substance above the reportable quantity, and which have yet to show that they meet state clean-up standards.

Environmental Sampling/Results
Ten subsurface soil samples were collected on site and analyzed. Lead was detected in one sample and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) were detected in two samples at levels above the federal soils screening value or the lowest comparison value (CV).

One groundwater sample was collected on site. Lead and arsenic were detected above CVs. Groundwater data is limited because only one sample was collected and hydrogeological data is not yet available.

Although lead and arsenic were detected in groundwater above CVs, toxicological evaluation for lead and arsenic in groundwater was not conducted because most residents use water from a municipal water supply, and the nearest private drinking water well is approximately one mile from the site. Therefore exposure to site related contaminants in groundwater is not likely.

Conclusions
GDPH concludes that this site poses an ***indeterminate public health hazard*** for exposure to contaminants in soil and groundwater because there is not enough information to determine whether residents may be exposed to contaminants from the site. The site has unlimited access which may result in exposure to contaminated soil. Although residents use the municipal water supply, there are residents living approximately one mile from the site using private water wells

Recommendations
- GEPD oversees further site characterization to determine the extent of site related contaminants.
- Proper abandonment of unused wells.